

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH  
Office of the City Manager  
Letter to Commission No. 042-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

Date: February 13, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

Subject: **CRIME STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003**

This Letter to the Commission is to inform the Mayor and City Commission of the Florida Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for Part 1 Crimes as indexed annually, for the year 2003. Part 1 Crimes include Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Thefts.

Overall, Part 1 crimes increased **2.12%** in the year 2003. This follows a decrease of **-7.4%** in the prior year.

Some highlights from the UCR Report are:

- **The total number of Homicides decreased 14.29%**
- **The total number of Robberies increased 0%**
- **The total number of Aggravated Assaults increased 15.32%**
- **The total number of Burglaries decreased 3.42%**
- **The total number of Larcenies increased 3.03%**
- **The total number of Auto Thefts decreased 2.15%**
- **The total number of Sexual Batteries increased 27.50%**

Enclosed is a chart that represents the last five (5) years of crime statistics in each respective category. Although there is an increase in crime, a five (5) year trend analysis reflects that crime overall is still down. Indeed, the number of crimes has **decreased - 26.11%** since 1999.

Additionally, a three (3) year trend analysis for all arrests reflects an **increase of 11.11% and 14.52%** for 2003 over 2002 and 2001 respectively.

As an entertainment destination, this increase in Part 1 crimes must be tempered with the influx of visitors to our City. While percentages reflected may seem higher per capita—these numbers do not account for the number of visitors present, which very well reach in the hundreds of thousands throughout each week.

Criminal justice experts concede that an overall downward trend of crime may begin to taper off nationwide with some jurisdictions experiencing some increases. At the state-level, some categories remained flat for the first six months of 2003; however, larcenies

and murders increased as well as robberies where a firearm was utilized.<sup>1</sup> Regionally, this trend is evident in the areas policed by the Miami-Dade County Police Department where increases were experienced in visitor robberies, forcible sex offenses, burglaries, larceny, and other Part 1 non-violent crimes. Some categories experienced a steady increase for the last three years.<sup>2</sup> Locally, Coral Gables experienced an increase in robberies and assaults during the first six months of 2003.<sup>3</sup>

Throughout the preceding year, the Police Department embarked on strategic planning initiatives to address these changing trends. Recently, the Department's Patrol Division was reorganized to streamline accountability and foster empowerment at the middle management level. Currently, a proactive approach to forcible sex offenses is being undertaken. This concerted effort will team the Domestic Violence/Victim Advocate Teams, the Nightlife Committee, Colleges and Universities as well as having an awareness component via the media.

I am confident that maintaining flexibility of approach in strategy will help our Police Department and community to create and maintain a safe and crime-free environment for our residents, visitors, and business community.

Attachments: Miami Beach PD Crime Comparisons  
References as footnoted

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1 *Crime in Florida January-June 2003*, Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

2 *Miami-Dade County 2003 Annual Statistics* released January 13, 2004 Miami-Dade Police Department.

3 *Coral Gables: Robberies, Assaults Increase*, Eunice Sigler, The Miami Herald, August 14, 2003.



**Part 1 Crime Comparison  
2002 vs. 2003**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	7	6	-14.29%
<b>Forcible Sex Offenses</b>	80	102	27.50%
<b>Robbery</b>	507	507	0.00%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	483	557	15.32%
<b>Burglary</b>	1464	1414	-3.42%
<b>Larceny</b>	6639	6840	3.03%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	1210	1184	-2.15%
<b>Total</b>	10390	10610	2.12%

Prepared by: MBPD Professional Standards Unit  
Date: Feb. 4, 2004

Source: 2002-2003 UCR  
MBPD Records Unit  
Pending final FDLE approval.



**Part 1 Crime Comparison  
1999 - 2003**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	10	6	-40.00%
<b>Rape/Forcible Sex</b>	98	102	4.08%
<b>Robbery</b>	561	507	-9.63%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	731	557	-23.80%
<b>Burglary</b>	2010	1414	-29.65%
<b>Larceny</b>	9254	6840	-26.09%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	1695	1184	-30.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14359</b>	<b>10610</b>	<b>-26.11%</b>

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